

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 12593 241638Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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P 232139Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7052

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 12593

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OCON VE US

SUBJECT: ATTITUDE OF MIND OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT TOWARD THE  
UNITED STATES: ADVISABILITY OF HIGH LEVEL U.S.-  
VENEZUELAN PARTICIPATION AT FLETCHER SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM  
LATE JANUARY

1. MRS. MCCLINTOCK AND I GAVE A LUNCHEON TODAY IN HONOR OF  
FORMER PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT AND HIS WIFE, WHICH WAS  
ATTENDED BY THE SENIOR LEADERS OF THE ADECO PARTY. BETANCOURT  
WENT OUT OF HIS WAY ON ARRIVAL TO SAY THAT HE HAD TALKED  
YESTERDAY WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, WHO MADE  
VERY NICE SOUNDS ABOUT ME. BETANCOURT ALSO GATHERED THE  
IMPRESSION THAT THE ADECO LEADERSHIP, DESPITE NATIONALISTIC  
REACTION TO OUR TRADE BILL, AS PROPHESED FINAL SENTENCE  
CARACAS 12534, IS EAGER TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED  
STATES.

2. RE UPCOMING FLETCHER SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM ON  
U.S.-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS, WHICH IS FINANCED BY THE NORTH  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VENEZUELA AND THE U.S.-OWNED  
AMERICAN-VENEZUELAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY (CARACAS 12560), ROMULO BETANCOURT SAID HE WOULD  
GLADLY ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO BE THE PRINCIPAL VENEZUELAN  
SPEAKER ON CONDITION THAT HIS OLD FRIEND NELSON ROCKEFELLER  
WOULD BE HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER IN BEING THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN  
SPEAKER.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 12593 241638Z

3. IN CONSEQUENCE, I AM DISAPPOINTED IN RECEIVING TODAY A

LETTER FROM VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER DATED DECEMBER 12  
IN RESPONSE TO MY OWN LETTER TO HIM OF DECEMBER 3 INDICATING  
THAT NOTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO TAKE ON EXTRA ENGAGEMENTS  
FOR JANUARY.

4. I DO FEEL THAT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF MIND OF  
THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT AND THE WILLINGNESS OF HIS DISTINGUISHED  
MENTOR AND PREDECESSOR, ROMULO BETANCOURT, TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE FLETCHER SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM. MUCH BENEFIT WOULD ACCRUE  
TO THE UNITED STATES IF THE VICE PRESIDENT COULD AT LEAST  
APPEAR ON THE FINAL DAY FOR A LUNCHEON MEETING AT THE  
COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL AND MAKE A SPEECH WHICH EITHER WOULD  
RESPOND TO OR PRECEDE A SIMILAR SPEECH BY THE FORMER  
PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THE  
PRESENT PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA IS RIDING HIGH AND THAT THE  
DIRECTION HE TAKES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA MAY BE COPIED  
BY OTHER AMERICAN REPUBLICS. IT IS MY CONSIDERED OPINION  
THAT WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING USEFUL  
ABOUT LATIN AMERICA IN ADDITION TO ONLY VENEZUELAN-U.S.  
RELATIONS AND THEREFORE I PRESUME UPON MY LONGSTANDING FRIENDSHIP  
WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TO ENTREAT THAT HE RECONSIDER HIS  
DECISION OF DECEMBER 12 AND HONOR THE SYMPOSIUM WITH  
HIS PRESENCE AT LEAST FOR A FEW HOURS.

6. BETANCOURT TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD COME TO THE FLETCHER  
SYMPOSIUM IF ROCKEFELLER ACCEPTED; OTHERWISE HE WOULD NOT.  
IT IS MY HOPE THAT BOTH OF THESE OLD FRIENDS CAN GET TOGETHER  
FOR A FEW HOURS TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

7. DEPARTMENT PASS TO THE VICE PRESIDENT ON A PERSONAL BASIS  
FROM AMBASSADOR.  
MCCLINTOCK

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## Message Attributes

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